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(54) Title: SHELF STABLE DESSERT PRODUCT AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURE THEREOF

(57) Abstract

A shelf stable fluid dessert product which has a reversible gel structure at refrigerator temperatures. The dessert product is made by a method wherein a homogeneous, aqueous mixture of a gel-forming gum, starch, sweetener agent, and a proteinaceous source is provided. The fat content of the mixture is adjusted. The mixture is homogenized after the addition of any fat source other than cream cheese or cream. The mixture is heated to a temperature and for a time sufficient to pasteurize the mixture. The pH of the mixture is adjusted to below about 4.6 and the mixture is cooled to ambient temperature whereby a thixotropic dessert product is provided which is pourable at ambient temperatures and is gelled at refrigerator temperatures. The product is particularly adapted to reset at refrigeration temperature after being subjected to substantial shear, such as by aeration treatment.

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SHELF STABLE DESSERT PRODUCT AND METHOD  
FOR MANUFACTURE THEREOF

The present invention relates generally to a shelf stable fluid dessert product which has a reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures. More particularly, the present invention relates to a dessert product for preparing a cheese cake type dessert wherein the dessert product is a thixotropic fluid mixture which is pourable at ambient temperature and which can be gelled at refrigeration temperature.

Cheese cake is a dessert item which is conventionally prepared using a soft, uncured cheese, such as cream cheese, baker's cheese or cottage cheese as the basis for a filling. The cheese is usually combined with other cake ingredients such as flour, butter or vegetable shortening, eggs, sugar and vanilla or other flavorings and is filled into a shell. It may be desirable to aerate the filling by mechanical whipping to provide a lighter texture and consistency to the finished dessert product. The filled shell is then baked to provide the final cheese cake product. Cheese cake desserts which do not require baking are also known. These usually rely upon a combination of gelatin and whipped egg whites or whipped cream to provide a rigid structure at refrigeration temperatures. Such non-bake cheese cakes are not reversible to provide a pourable mixture at room temperature and these cheese cakes are not shelf stable at ambient temperature.

Various dry mixes have been proposed which can be reconstituted with water to provide a cheese cake type dessert. One such dry mix is disclosed in United States Patent No. 3,455,698 to Vakaleris. The Vakaleris patent discloses a dry food mix which is reconstitutable as a cheese cake filling. The dry mix contains a major portion of an acid coagulable protein source, sugar,



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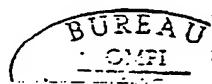
flour, cornstarch and an acidogen which is hydrolyzable in water to release an edible acid. After reconstitution with water, the acidogen reacts to release an acid and to coagulate the protein after a 5. batter is prepared from the dry mix. The batter is then baked to provide a traditional type cheese cake product.

Inasmuch as the cheese which provides the base for the cheese cake filling is a perishable food item, the householder normally procures the cheese shortly 10 before preparation of the cheese cake. The dry mixes, such as proposed in the Vakaleris patent, were designed in an effort to permit the householder to prepare cheese cake at any time and without advance preparation, except for the addition of household staples, such as eggs, 15 milk, butter or margarine. Heretofore, no product has been offered to the householder which is immediately ready to be placed into a filling to provide a cheese cake type dessert and which can be stored at ambient temperatures until required for use.

20 The product of the present invention is a novel mixture of components required to provide a cheese cake which is fluid and pourable at ambient temperature but which sets to a gel at refrigeration temperature and is reversible between the gel form and the pourable form.

25 The dessert product of the present invention is thixotropic and can be made fluid even at refrigeration temperatures by stirring or agitation. The dessert product has significant ability to rest at refrigeration temperature after being subjected to substantial 30 mechanical shear, such as by being aerated by mechanical whipping. This latter characteristic facilitates the preparation of set, aerated dessert products having a light texture in a relatively short period of time.

In this connection, setting of the dessert 35 product in the form of the prepared dessert item, within



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a reasonably limited period of time, such as about two hours at refrigeration temperature is desirable to provide a convenience food item to the consumer.

Accordingly, it is a principal object of 5 present invention to provide a shelf stable dessert product which is pourable at ambient temperature and which sets to a gel at refrigeration temperature, even after being aerated.

It is another object of the present invention 10 to provide a shelf stable dessert product for use as a cheese cake filling which is complete and can be placed directly into a mold or shell and which can be refrigerated to provide a gel structure after being subjected to mechanical shear.

15 It is a further object of the present invention to provide a thixotropic dessert product utilizable as a cheese cake filling which has a reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures which sets in a limited period of time.

20 It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a dessert product which is ready to use as a cheese cake filling and which is shelf stable at ambient temperatures for extended periods of time. These and other objects of the invention will become 25 apparent from consideration of the following detailed description.

Generally, in accordance with the present invention, a shelf stable dessert product which has a reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures 30 is prepared by a method including the following steps:

A homogeneous, aqueous mixture of a particular gel-forming gum, a sweetening agent, starch and a proteinaceous source is prepared. The proteinaceous source is selected from the group consisting of cream 35 cheese, Neufchatel cheese, cottage cheese, casein, an



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edible caseinate salt and an edible soy proteinate salt. The fat content of the aqueous mixture is adjusted to within the range of from about 15 to about 25 percent fat by selection of proteinaceous source or 5 by the addition of a suitable fat source. The mixture is then heated to a temperature and for a time sufficient to pasteurize the mixture. The pH of the mixture is adjusted to below about 4.6 and the mixture is cooled to ambient temperature. At ambient 10 temperature, a thixotropic dessert product is provided which is shelf stable, which is pourable at ambient temperature and which is gelled at refrigeration temperature. By "refrigeration temperatures" is meant the temperature usually encountered in a household 15 refrigerator of from about 2° C to about 10° C.

While not wishing to be bound by any theory, it is believed that the interaction of the gelatin component, the starch, the sweetening agent and the proteinaceous source at the particular levels of use for 20 each component during the heating step of the present invention provides a gel matrix which is reversible and which is thixotropic. A synergistic effect occurs which is believed to be the result of the choice of the particular ingredients of the mixture and the level of 25 use of the ingredients in the finished product. The gel matrix at ambient temperature is semi-fluid but pours readily after slight agitation. The product may be aerated such as by being whipped to increase the whipped product volume with respect to the unwhipped product 30 volume by incorporation of air, by at least 10% and preferably at least 20% (i.e., an "overrun" of at least 10 or preferably at least 20 percent). The final form of the product when refrigerated has a soft pleasing mouth feel without the characteristic rubbery texture 35 associated with gel-forming gums, such as gelatin. The



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gelatin gel-forming component is an important constituent of the dessert product, and serves to improve the texture and eating qualities of the dessert product as well as contributing to the reversible 5 gel-matrix of the product. The gel-forming gums are used in the formulation of the present invention in an amount ranging from about 0.4 percent to about 0.7 percent, preferably at a level ranging from about 0.45 percent to about 0.55 percent. As used herein, all 10 percentages are by weight and all temperatures are given in degrees Centigrade, unless specifically indicated otherwise.

Particularly preferred is pig or calf gelatin with a Bloom strength in the range of from about 150 to 15 about 250. It should be recognized that, while other gel forming materials have the ability to form hard gels, which are defined as a rigid structure that does not flow, such gums do not provide the combination of properties to the dessert product of the present 20 invention. Some gums, such as tragacanth, form thick heavy pastes at high concentrations that are sometimes called gels, but are not true gels. Other gums, such as furcellaran, form gels but are degraded when heated under acidic conditions as are used in the process of 25 the present invention. Other gums, such as agar, form gels but have extreme hysteresis lag which is the ability to gel at temperatures much lower than the gel-melting temperature. Gums such as xanthan gum and locust bean (carob) gum may provide dessert products having 30 properties similar to gelatin-containing products and having some reversible gel character, but do not provide the desirable mouth feel characteristics of the gelatin containing product, and do not provide a rapid resetting at refrigeration temperatures after being subjected to a 35 high degree of mechanical shear such as by whipping of



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air into the product at ambient or refrigeration temperatures. Minor amounts of such other gums may be used in combination with the gelatin component to provide slightly altered properties but such use in accordance with the present invention should be restricted to less than about 25 weight percent of the total gelatin present.

The starch used in the dessert product of the invention can be any food starch in its native or modified form. Native starches are produced by extraction from the seeds of plants such as corn, wheat, sorghum or rice; the tubers, or roots of plants, like cassaba (tapioca), potato or arrowroot; and the pith of the sago palm. Particularly preferred is cornstarch because of the commercial availability of cornstarch. The starch can be either pre-gelatinized or non-gelatinized. If the starch is non-gelatinized, the heating step of the invention must be sufficient to effect gelatinization during the preparation of the dessert product. The use of pre-gelatinized starch is preferred to insure gelatinization of starch in the dessert product. A particularly preferred starch for use in the present invention is pregelatinized waxy maize starch.

It is known that food starch has gelling properties however, it should be understood that the starch is used in the dessert product of the present invention primarily as a stabilizer for the fatty emulsion which is present in the dessert product and not for contribution to the gel structure except as it interacts with the gelatin component. It is well known that gelled foods prepared from starch have syneresis problems during storage and there is no syneresis problem with the dessert product of the invention. The starch is present in the dessert product at a level of



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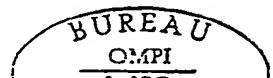
from about .4 to about 2 percent, preferably from about .5 to about 1 percent. This level of use is much lower than normally used for starch paste emulsion products, such as salad dressing.

5       The proteinaceous source is selected from the group consisting of cream cheese, Neufchatel cheese, cottage cheese, an edible caseinate salt, casein and an edible soy proteinate salt. The proteinaceous source is present at a level sufficient to provide from about 2 to  
10 about 7 percent protein in the dessert product. The preferred protein source is cream cheese and Neufchatel cheese.

The dessert product of the invention desirably has a fat content of from about 15 to about 25 percent.  
15 It is preferred to use cream cheese as the proteinaceous source in the dessert product of the present invention. Cream cheese contains from about 30 to about 40 percent butterfat and when used at the desired level for the proteinaceous source, the fat of the cream cheese  
20 supplies all or most of the fat necessary for the dessert product. When any of the other proteinaceous sources are used, it is necessary to provide an additional source of fat. The fat is preferably selected from butterfat, cream, butter oil, coconut oil  
25 and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils having an IV of from about 75 to about 100.

When a fat source other than cream cheese or Neufchatel cheese is used in the dessert product of the present invention, it is desirable to homogenize an  
30 aqueous mixture containing the protein source and the fat source prior to the final heating step to provide a fatty emulsion. Either single stage or double stage homogenization can be used at pressures of from about 250 psig to about 5000 psig.

35       It is desirable to limit the level of lactose



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in the dessert product to less than about 3 percent so as to prevent the formation of lactose crystals or a Maillard reaction during storage of the dessert product. Accordingly, the proteinaceous source is 5 selected from the indicated group so as to provide less than about 3 percent lactose in the final dessert product.

It is also desirable to have at least some edible caseinate salt in the dessert product. In a 10 preferred embodiment of the present invention, sodium caseinate is present in the dessert product at a level of from about .5 to about 3 percent without regard to any other proteinaceous source present in the dessert product. The presence of sodium caseinate aids in water 15 binding and in the cold set properties of the dessert product.

The sweetening agent is preferably a natural sweetening agent, such as sucrose or dextrose. Natural sweetening agents are used at a level of from about 10 20 to about 25 percent. Artificial sweeteners, such as saccharin, can be used to replace a maximum of about half of the natural sweetening agents.

Natural or synthetic flavoring agents may be used to impart a final desired flavor to the dessert 25 product. In general, flavoring agents are used at a level of less than about one percent and any suitable flavor can be used in the dessert product. Moreover, it may be desirable to include effective amounts of edible whipping emulsifiers such as those conventionally known 30 and utilized as whipping agents, to enhance or facilitate the incorporation of air into the product when it is desired to provide an aerated dessert product. However, the addition of such materials is generally entirely unnecessary to achieve whipped 35 products of desirable overrun. In this connection,



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preferred compositions may be readily whipped at ambient temperature to provide about a 20 percent overrun (i.e., ratio of volume of whipped material to starting composition of 1.2), and to provide an overrun in the 5 range of from about 30 to about 35 percent at refrigeration temperature. The whipped compositions readily reset at refrigeration temperatures (without reheating) within 2 hours or less.

A homogeneous, aqueous mixture of the 10 ingredients is formed by any suitable method. In this connection, it is generally desirable to heat the water used in the preparation of the dessert product and to add the other ingredients to the heated water. The dry ingredients are preferably added by suitable equipment 15 to prevent lumping of the dry ingredients. One suitable method for blending the dry ingredients with the water is a tank containing a continuous piping loop through which the water is recirculated by means of a centrifugal pump. The dry ingredients are gradually fed 20 into the loop prior to passage of the water through the pump. If a fat source is used in the preparation of the dessert product, the homogeneous, aqueous mixture is homogenized prior to the final heating step.

After a homogeneous, aqueous mixture of the 25 ingredients is formed, the mixture is heated to a temperature sufficient to pasteurize the mixture. Suitable heating conditions are to a temperature of from about 72° to about 90° C for a time of from about 15 minutes to about 5 minutes, the longer time 30 corresponding to the lower temperature and equivalent intermediate times being used at intermediate temperatures. Ultra high temperature short time (UHTST) conditions of about 100-110° C for substantially no hold time can also be used. If a non-gelatinized starch is 35 used, the final heating conditions are selected so as to



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be above the gelatinization temperature for the starch.

After the pasteurization heating step, the pH of the mixture is adjusted to below about 4.6 by the addition of a suitable edible acid. Suitable edible acids include but are not limited to citric acid, lactic acid, malic acid, acetic acid, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, glucona delta lactone, fumaric acid and mixtures thereof.

The dessert product of the invention is then filled into containers and sealed. The dessert product should be filled and sealed while at a temperature of 72° C or above to insure adequate shelf life.

The dessert product of the present invention generally has the following level of components at the indicated range of use.

|    | <u>Component</u>              | <u>Range</u> |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------|
|    | Protein                       | 2-7          |
|    | Fat                           | 15-25        |
|    | Sugar (other than lactose)    | 10-25        |
| 20 | Lactose                       | >3           |
|    | Water (q s for Final Product) | 48-52        |
|    | Starch                        | .4-2         |
|    | Gelatin                       | .4-.7        |
|    | Flavoring                     | >1.0         |
| 25 | pH                            | 4.0-4.6      |

The following examples further illustrate various features of the present invention but are not intended to in any way limit the scope of the invention which is defined in the appended claims.

30                   EXAMPLE 1

A cheese cake filling in accordance with the present invention is made using cream cheese as the protein and fat source. The filling has the following ingredients in the given amounts:



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|    | <u>Ingredients</u>               | <u>Weight</u>  |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------|
|    |                                  | <u>Percent</u> |
|    | Cream Cheese                     | 53.74          |
|    | Granulated sugar (sucrose)       | 22.45          |
|    | Water                            | 20.21          |
| 5  | Fresh curd sodium caseinate      | 1.66           |
|    | Vanilla extract                  | 0.56           |
|    | Pregelatinized waxy maize starch | 0.56           |
|    | Calfskin gelatin, 220 bloom      | 0.55           |
|    | Lactic acid, 85%                 | 0.23           |
| 10 | Lemon emulsion                   | 0.04           |
|    |                                  | 100.00         |

A jacketed conical tank with controlled temperature water circulating through the jacket and having a motordriven stainless steel propeller-type impeller is used for heating and blending the ingredients. A recirculating loop with centrifugal pump and hopper feeder was connected to the tank and the contents of the conical tank are circulated through the loop, enabling dry ingredients to be added without undesirable lump formation. Water is heated to 54° C, and gelatin, sodium caseinate, and starch are added. The cream cheese is added, the sugar is added and the temperature raised to 82° C. Lactic acid and flavorings are added, and the product is held at 82° C for ten minutes with agitation. The pH of the product is 4.38, and is commercially sterile as determined by standard bacteriological testing. Product at 82° C is packaged in a variety of airtight containers including glass jars, vinyl chloride tubes, polypropylene cups, aluminum cups, tinned cans, and polyethylene/aluminum foil laminate flex packs.

These various packages may be stored at 7° C, ambient room temperatures (24° C), 30° C, and 37° C in the absence of light and examined periodically for



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quality changes. From a bacteriological standpoint, the cheese cake filling was highly acceptable as total counts were reduced during the storage period.

Refrigerated filling ( $7^{\circ}\text{ C}$ ) is unchanged in flavor

5 characteristics during the eight-month test. At ambient room temperature, slight yellowing of the product and development of a barely detectable caramelized taste occurred in eight months - still highly acceptable. At  $30^{\circ}\text{ C}$ , browning and caramelized flavor development made

10 the product unacceptable in four to five months. At  $37^{\circ}\text{ C}$ , these same factors resulted in unacceptable products in less than two months. During the storage period, selected samples were used to prepare cold set cheese cakes of good quality.

15 The product has been packaged in a variety of air tight containers including glass jars, vinyl chloride tubes, polypropylene cups, aluminum cups and polyethylene/aluminum foil laminate flex packs. After sealing, the container is cooled as rapidly as possible

20 to a temperature of about  $20^{\circ}\text{ C}$  and placed in storage or tested by placing in a graham cracker crumb crust shell to evaluate the taste and consistency. Further, samples are tested for consistency using a Brookfield viscometer Model RVF.

25 An acceptable viscosity using the F spindle at 0.5 rpm would be in the range of 5-9 at room temperature or 20 to 36 at  $7^{\circ}\text{ C}$ . The most desirable viscosity for this product is a Brookfield reading of 32-34 units.

The product may be subjected to substantial  
30 shear, and still exhibits rapid resetting characteristics at refrigeration temperature without heating of the product to elevated temperature. In this connection, air may be whipped into the product at ambient or refrigeration temperature as by a home mixer,  
35 and the whipped composition incorporated into the

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dessert product, such as a graham cracker crust. The whipped composition will rapidly (e.g., in 2 hours or less) reset at refrigeration temperature to provide an aerated cheese cake dessert.

5

EXAMPLE 2

A cheese cake filling in accordance with the invention was made in accordance with the procedure of Example 1 using the following formulation:

|    | <u>Weight</u>                    |        |
|----|----------------------------------|--------|
|    | <u>Percent</u>                   |        |
| 10 |                                  |        |
|    | <u>Ingredients</u>               |        |
|    | Cottage cheese curd              |        |
|    | (17.6% solids)                   | 35.10  |
|    | Sugar. (sucrose)                 | 22.34  |
|    | Water                            | 22.67  |
| 15 |                                  |        |
|    | Butter oil                       | 18.03  |
|    | Pregelatinized waxy maize starch | 0.60   |
|    | Vanilla extract                  | 0.56   |
|    | Pigskin gelatin                  | 0.51   |
|    | Citric Acid                      | 0.15   |
| 20 |                                  |        |
|    | Lemon emulsion                   | 0.04   |
|    |                                  | 100.00 |

The cottage cheese curd was dispersed in water and warmed to 54° C, the butter oil was added and the mixture was homogenized using 2000 psig on the first 25 stage and 500 psig second stage. Gelatin and starch were added to the viscous liquid and the mixture was heated to 68° C. The sugar was added and the blend heated to 82° C for ten minutes. After cooling, the pH was 4.25. The filling was added to a graham cracker 30 crumb crust shell to prepare cheese cake having the consistency and taste characteristics of cold set cheese cake after one hour at refrigeration temperatures of 1-10° C. A second batch was made wherein one-third of the citric acid was replaced by an equal weight of malic 35 acid to provide an equivalent pH and less "acid bite"



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when consumed.

EXAMPLE 3

A formulation similar to that given in Example 1 was used to prepare a cheese cake filling using 5 Neufchatel cheese in place of cream cheese.

|    | <u>Ingredients</u>               | <u>Weight</u>  |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------|
|    |                                  | <u>Percent</u> |
|    | Neufchatel cheese                | 53.74          |
| 10 | Sugar (sucrose)                  | 22.45          |
|    | Water                            | 21.47          |
|    | Vanilla extract                  | 0.56           |
|    | Pregelatinized waxy maize starch | 1.00           |
|    | Calfskin gelatin, 220 bloom      | 0.50           |
|    | Lactic acid, 85%                 | 0.24           |
| 15 | Lemon emulsion                   | 0.04           |
|    |                                  | 100.00         |

The processing of Example 1 was followed giving a filling having a pH = 4.40 and providing a good quality cheese cake when set at refrigeration temperatures of 1-10° C for about one hour.

EXAMPLE 4

This example illustrates the use of sodium caseinate and vegetable fat to prepare a shelf-stable cheese cake filling.

|    | <u>Ingredients</u>               | <u>Weight</u>  |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------|
|    |                                  | <u>Percent</u> |
| 25 | Water                            | 50.13          |
|    | Granulated sugar (sucrose)       | 22.41          |
|    | Coconut oil, 76° F               | 17.50          |
|    | Fresh curd sodium caseinate      | 6.87           |
| 30 | Pregelatinized waxy maize starch | 1.00           |
|    | Imitation vanilla flavor         | 0.56           |
|    | Dry lemon powder                 | 0.56           |
|    | Lactic acid, 88%                 | 0.52           |



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|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Pigskin gelatin, 250 bloom | <u>0.45</u> |
|                            | 100.00      |

Sodium caseinate was added to the water which was heated to 54° C and the coconut oil was blended in.

5 The mixture was homogenized in a two-stage homogenizer at 2000 psig first stage, 500 psig second stage. The emulsion was heated to 66° C and gelatin, starch, and granulated sugar were added. The blend was heated to 82° C and the dry flavorings were added. Lactic acid 10 was added to adjust the pH to 4.27 and the filling was held at 82° C for ten minutes. Standard bacteriological testing indicated the bacterial profile was desirably low. The filling had acceptable shelf life and provided cold set cheese cake consistency on refrigeration.

15

EXAMPLE 5

This example illustrates the use of isolated soy protein and vegetable fat to prepare a shelf-stable cheese cake filling. The procedure of Example 1 was used:

20

|                                  | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Ingredients</u>               |               |                |
| Water                            | 50.13         |                |
| Granulated sugar                 | 22.75         |                |
| Partially hydrogenated           |               |                |
| 25 soybean oil, 82 I.V.          | 19.00         |                |
| Sodium soy proteinate            | 5.50          |                |
| Pregelatinized waxy maize starch | 0.75          |                |
| Imitation vanilla powder         | 0.56          |                |
| Dry lemon powder                 | 0.56          |                |
| 30 Pigskin gelatin, 250 bloom    | 0.49          |                |
| Phosphoric acid, 85%             | <u>0.26</u>   |                |
|                                  | 100.00        |                |

30

The soy proteinate was dispersed in 49° C water and the soybean oil was added. The mix was homogenized 35 two-stage at 2500 psig first stage and 500 psig second



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stage. The gelatin and starch were added, the temperature adjusted to 66° C and the sugar added. The temperature was adjusted to 82° C and the dry flavorings added. The phosphoric acid was added to a part of the  
 5 water to reduce the concentration to 20 percent and added to the filling. The product was held at 82° C for ten minutes and filled in glass jars which were tightly capped. The pH was 4.45 and had a suitable low bacteriological profile. A second batch was made using  
 10 0.01 percent ascorbic acid or sodium ascorbate to provide a flavor note similar to that provided by dairy protein and lactose. The filling sets on refrigeration to give a cheese cake consistency and shelf life is satisfactory.

15

#### EXAMPLE 6

Sucrose was replaced with corn syrup solids as given in the following formulation:

|    | <u>Ingredients</u>               | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 20 | Cream cheese                     | 53.74         |                |
|    | 63 D.E. corn syrup (84% solids)  | 26.72         |                |
|    | Water                            | 15.54         |                |
|    | Fresh curd sodium caseinate      | 1.66          |                |
|    | Vanilla extract                  | 0.56          |                |
| 25 | Pregelatinized waxy maize starch | 0.56          |                |
|    | Calfskin gelatin, 220 bloom      | 0.55          |                |
|    | Lactic acid, 85%                 | 0.23          |                |
|    | Lemon emulsion                   | 0.44          |                |
|    |                                  | 100.00        |                |

This formulation was processed in the same  
 30 equipment and in the manner as given in Example 1. The cheese cake filling was similar in consistency and taste to that provided in Example 1, but had a shorter shelf life due to more rapid browning at 30° C and 37° C than the formulation containing sucrose given in Example 1.



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In like manner, 42 D.E. corn syrup (81% solids) was substituted for the sucrose in Example 1. The sweetness of the filling was slightly reduced compared to that provided in Example 1; the added flavors were 5 slightly masked, and browning proceeded more rapidly at 30° C and 37° C.

In a similar manner, lactose which had been hydrolyzed to glucose and galactose to the extent of about 95% and which had been freeze-dried to remove 10 water, was used as a replacement for sucrose in Example 1. Processing and properties of the fillings were substantially as given in Example 1.

Accordingly, in view of the present disclosure, it will be appreciated that in accordance with the 15 present invention, an improved shelf-stable dessert product is provided which has reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures, even under high shear conditions such as produced by mechanical incorporation of air into the product by whipping, and which has 20 particular utility as a convenience food item.

While the invention has been specifically described by reference to various specific embodiments, it will be recognized that various modifications, adaptations and variations, may be made without 25 departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.

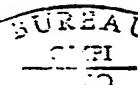
Various of the features of the present invention are set forth in the following claims.



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CLAIMS:

1. A method for manufacture of a shelf stable dessert product which has a reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures comprising providing a homogeneous, aqueous mixture of gelatin, starch, a sweetening agent, and a proteinaceous source selected from the group consisting of cream cheese, cottage cheese, casein, an edible caseinate salt and an edible soy proteinate salt, adjusting the fat content of said mixture, homogenizing said mixture after the addition of any fat source other than cream cheese or cream, heating said mixture to a temperature and for a time sufficient to pasteurize said mixture, adjusting the pH of said mixture to below about 4.6, and cooling said mixture to ambient temperature whereby a thixotropic dessert product is provided which is pourable at ambient temperature and which is gelled at refrigeration temperature.
2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said fat content of said mixture is within the range of about 15 to about 25 percent by weight.
3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said proteinaceous source is present at a level to provide a protein content of from about 2 to about 7 percent by weight.
4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 in which said starch is present at a level of from about .4 to about 2 percent by weight.
5. A method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said gelatin is present at a level of from about .4 to about .7 percent by weight.
6. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the pH of said dessert product is within the range of



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from about 4.0 to about 4.6.

7. A thixotropic dessert product utilizable as a cheese cake filling which has a reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures, said dessert 5 product being a homogeneous, aqueous mixture comprising gelatin, a sweetening agent, starch and a proteinaceous source, said proteinaceous source being selected from the group consisting of cream cheese, Neufchatel cheese, cottage cheese, casein, an edible caseinate salt and an 10 edible soy proteinate salt, the fat content of said aqueous mixture being adjusted to within the range of from about 15 to about 25 percent, said gel-forming gum being gelatin.

8. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 15 7 wherein said gelatin is present in said aqueous mixture at a level of from about 0.4 percent to about 0.7 percent by weight of said mixture.

9. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said gelatin is present in said aqueous 20 mixture at a level of from about 0.45 percent to about 0.55 percent by weight of said mixture.

10. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said gelatin is selected from the group consisting of pig gelatin and calf gelatin having a 25 bloom strength of from about 150 to about 250.

11. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said starch is a food starch derived from a food product selected from the group consisting of corn, wheat, sorghum, rice, casaba, potato, arrowroot and sago 30 palm.

12. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said starch is cornstarch.

13. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said cornstarch is pregelatinized waxy maize 35 starch.



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14. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said starch is present in said aqueous mixture at a level of from about .4 to about 2 percent.

15. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 5 7 wherein said product is a whipped product comprising at least 10 volume percent of air disbursed throughout said product based on the total volume of the whipped product including said air.

16. A method in accordance with Claim 7 10 wherein said starch is present in said aqueous mixture at a level of from about 0.5 to about 1 percent by weight of said mixture.

17. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 15 wherein said proteinaceous source is present in said aqueous mixture at a level sufficient to provide from about 2 to about 7 percent protein in said mixture.

18. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 20 wherein said proteinaceous source is selected so as to provide less than about 3 percent lactose in said dessert product.

19. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 wherein sodium caseinate is present in said dessert product at a level of from about 0.5 to about 3 percent.



**AMENDED CLAIMS**  
(received by the International Bureau on 25 June 1981 (25.06.81))

(amended) 1. A method for manufacture of a shelf stable dessert product which has a reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures comprising providing a homogeneous, aqueous mixture of gelatin, starch, a sweetening agent, and a proteinaceous source selected from the group consisting of cream cheese, cottage cheese, Neufchatel cheese, casein, an edible caseinate salt and an edible soy proteinate salt, adjusting the fat content of said mixture, homogenizing said mixture after the addition of any fat source other than cream cheese or cream, heating said mixture to a temperature and for a time sufficient to pasteurize said mixture, adjusting the pH of said mixture to below about 4.6, and cooling said mixture to ambient temperature whereby a thixotropic dessert product is provided which is pourable at ambient temperature and which is gelled at refrigeration temperature.

5 2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said fat content of said mixture is within the range of about 15 to about 25 percent by weight.

10 3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said proteinaceous source is present at a level to provide a protein content of from about 2 to about 7 percent by weight.

15 4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 in which said starch is present at a level of from about .4 to about 2 percent by weight.

20 5. A method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said gelatin is present at a level of from about .4 to about .7 percent by weight.

25 6. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the pH of said dessert product is within the range of



from about 4.0 to about 4.6.

7. A thixotropic dessert product utilizable as a cheese cake filling which has a reversible gel structure at refrigeration temperatures, said dessert  
5 product being a homogeneous, aqueous mixture comprising gelatin, a sweetening agent, starch and a proteinaceous source, said proteinaceous source being selected from the group consisting of cream cheese, Neufchatel cheese, cottage cheese, casein, an edible caseinate salt and an  
10 edible soy proteinate salt, the fat content of said aqueous mixture being adjusted to within the range of from about 15 to about 25 percent, said gel-forming gum being gelatin.

8. A dessert product in accordance with Claim  
15 7 wherein said gelatin is present in said aqueous mixture at a level of from about 0.4 percent to about 0.7 percent by weight of said mixture.

9. A dessert product in accordance with Claim  
7 wherein said gelatin is present in said aqueous  
20 mixture at a level of from about 0.45 percent to about 0.55 percent by weight of said mixture.

10. A dessert product in accordance with Claim  
7 wherein said gelatin is selected from the group  
consisting of pig gelatin and calf gelatin having a  
25 bloom strength of from about 150 to about 250.

11. A dessert product in accordance with Claim  
7 wherein said starch is a food starch derived from a  
food product selected from the group consisting of corn,  
wheat, sorghum, rice, casaba, potato, arrowroot and sago  
30 palm.

12. A dessert product in accordance with Claim  
11 wherein said starch is cornstarch.

13. A dessert product in accordance with Claim  
12 wherein said cornstarch is pregelatinized waxy maize  
35 starch.



14. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said starch is present in said aqueous mixture at a level of from about .4 to about 2 percent.

15. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 5 7 wherein said product is a whipped product comprising at least 10 volume percent of air disbursed throughout said product based on the total volume of the whipped product including said air.

16. A method in accordance with Claim 7 10 wherein said starch is present in said aqueous mixture at a level of from about 0.5 to about 1 percent by weight of said mixture.

17. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 15 wherein said proteinaceous source is present in said aqueous mixture at a level sufficient to provide from about 2 to about 7 percent protein in said mixture.

18. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 20 wherein said proteinaceous source is selected so as to provide less than about 3 percent lactose in said dessert product.

19. A dessert product in accordance with Claim 7 wherein sodium caseinate is present in said dessert product at a level of from about 0.5 to about 3 percent.



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US80/01206

## I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) \*

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

INT. CL<sup>9</sup> A23C 19/09, A23L 1/04  
U.S. CL. 426/576,578,582,564,573

## II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched \*

| Classification System | Classification Symbols  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| U.S.                  | 426/573,576,578,582,564 |

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation  
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched \*

## III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT<sup>14</sup>

| Category * | Citation of Document, <sup>16</sup> with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>17</sup> | Relevant to Claim No. <sup>18</sup> |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A          | US,A, 3,726,690, PUBLISHED 10 APRIL 1973,<br>SCHUPPNER.                                                        | 1-19                                |
| A,E        | US,A, 4,254,156, PUBLISHED 03 MARCH 1981,<br>De SOCIO ET AL.                                                   | 7-15,17-19                          |
| A          | US,A, 3,666,493, PUBLISHED 30 MAY 1972,<br>BLUERMKE.                                                           | 1-19                                |
| A          | US,A, 3,455,698, PUBLISHED 15 JULY 1969,<br>VAKALERIS.                                                         | 1-19                                |
| A          | US,A, 2,714,069, PUBLISHED 26 JULY 1955,<br>STUART.                                                            | 1-19                                |

\* Special categories of cited documents: <sup>15</sup>

"A" document defining the general state of the art

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document cited for special reason other than those referred to in the other categories

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but on or after the priority date claimed

"T" later document published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application, but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance

## IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search \*

21 APRIL 1981

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report \*

06 MAY 1981

International Searching Authority \*

ISA/US

Signature of Authorized Officer \*

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